Numb. 68

THE OBSERVATOR.

...Case of the Pensioners of the late Privy-Purse. An Account of the Money in the Privy-...urse at His late Majesties Death. What became of that Money. Her Majesties Justice ...d Charity in Paying the Debts Due to the Trades-men from the late Privy-Purse. What ...elief the Pensioners may expect. The Reasons why King William *was Reflected on by the ...nemies of* England.

...rom Saturday December the 12th, to Wednesday December the 16th, 1702.

...try-m. MR. *Observator*, I have one sad Grievance more to Question you upon, and ...oteſi my Heart akes to think of it. I was ...ompany with ſome Gentlemen in a Coffee-...ſe near St. *James's*, where they were tal-..., that our Late Glorious Monarch Kin... *...iam* dyed much in Debt to the *Civil Liſt ... Traders*; and particularly they ſaid to the ...*ioners* (I think they call'd it) of the *Privy-...ſe*; ſome of which, they ſaid, were ſuch Per-...s as had done our Country the trueſt Ser-..., and ſuch as had Detected Conſpiracies ...inſt His Majeſties Sacred Perſon, the accom-...hment of which would have prevented Her ...acious Majeſties Acceſſion to the Throne. ..., if this be true, 'tis a hard Caſe: But is not ... Succeſſor to the Crown of *England* obliged ...Honour and Conſcience to pay the juſt Debts ... the Predeceſſor?

Obſ. I'll Anſwer that Queſtion by and by; ...d in order thereunto I will ſet you right in ... State of the *Privy-Purſe* at the Kings Death. ...l Kings have Favourites, and generally ſuch ...do no good to the Commonwealth, but Ag-...andize their Fortunes by *Pyracies* on the Pub-...k Revenue. Every Body at the Kings Death, ...hen they found ſuch Immenſe Sums Due from ...e Crown, and the Treaſury ſo Empty, attri-...ted this to the E—— of *A*——, as being the ...ief Inſtrument thereof by his Extravagant ...xpences on Ladies, and in Building and Fur-...ſhing his Houſe in *Holland*. Now, Sir, 'tis ...ng of this Perſon that the Penſions are not ...aid; for when my Lord *P*—— quitted the ...Court, among other Places he ſurrendered the ...*rivy-Purſe*. This Diſgrace being on my Lord ...*d*——s account; the King, who had been ſo ...ard upon His *Old Favourite* in Countenancing ...he *Young one*, would not Mortify him ſo much ...as to let *A*—— appear in any of his Places: But *A*—— was ſo much in love with the Purſe, that ...he would take no Refuſal; ſo that the King was ...forc'd to take a Medium, and allow my Lord *A*—— the *Perquiſits* of the Purſe, and continu-...ed the *Management* thereof to *H*——*n*——*g*: So that by this prudent Management His Maje-...ſty avoided Affronting my Lord *P*——, and Secur'd His Money, which would not have been very ſafe in a Young Mans Hands, and *H*—— ſeem'd to be the only Perſon concern'd in the *Privy-Purſe*, tho' indeed he had no more than 400*l. per Ann.* for the Management thereof. However he being the only Perſon that appear'd publickly in that Management, he was ſent for the next day after the Kings Death to the Cabi-net Council, where he was order'd to give an Account of what Money there was in the Purſe, and what Debts (if any) to the Day before, which was the day of the King's Death; and the Queen order'd him to attend my Lord *G*——*n* with the ſaid Account; accordingly *H*—— the next day gave an Account that there was 1800*l.* due to Tradeſmen, chiefly *Watchmakers*, and 1600*l.* for *Penſions*, Naming no Perſons, ſaying *That would be a breach of Truſt in him ſo to do*; but as for Money, he much Boggled; but being preſt by my Lord *G*——, who told him he knew there had been very lately a conſiderable Sum paid out of the *Treaſury* to the *Purſe*, by which Sum the *Purſe* was Clear'd to that day, and that he muſt give an Account *how* and *where* it had been Paid. So that *H*—— finding he could not Shuffle and Cut with my Lord *G*——, he thought fit at laſt, with much adoe, to ſay, *There was* 16272*l.* 1*s.* 3*d. which he had, by the Kings Order, paid my Lord* A——. Being ask'd for that Order, he ſaid, *The King gave it him by Word of Mouth, leſs than a Quarter of an Hour be-fore he Died, and that he paid my Lord* A—— *the Money two Hours after.*

Country-m. Poor King *William*! Could not His Greedy Favourites let Him Die in Peace, but divert his Thoughts from Heaven by Ex-torting Grants from Him with His laſt Gaſp? And we may conclude what a wonderful Kind-neſs *A*—— had for his Good Maſter, who could fall to telling of Money in ſo ſhort a time after His *Exit*, which being on a *Sunday*, ſhews how much Court Favourites prefer *Gain* before *Re-ligion*: I don't think any good King, like our late Great and Glorious *William*, was ever Abus'd by ſuch a pack of Rapacious and Greedy Courtiers. But pray, Sir, proceed with your Black Story.

Obſ. Soon after this, my Lord *Godolphin* was made Lord Treaſurer, and my Lady *Marlbo-rough* Privy-Purſe; and *H*—— coming to Soli-cit for thoſe Debts, to get his Poundage, my Lord Treaſurer told him, *That Her Majeſty had nothing to do with thoſe Debts, there being four times more left than they amounted to*; and Orde-red him to acquaint my Lord *A*——, That if he could pretend to any thing; 'twas not 'till the Debts were paid; and that Her Majeſty was very favourable not to charge him with more than what the *Privy-Purſe* owed. *A*—— is told this, but packs off for *Holland* with all the Mo-ney, and pays nothing: The Tradeſmen ma-king ſtrong Application to the New Purſe, Her Majeſty (who was now in poſſeſſion of moſt of the things they claim'd a Due for) Ordered them their Money. This was an extraordinary piece of *Juſtice* and *Charity* in our Gracious

Queen;

Queen; and I make no queſtion but this Act of Her Majeſty, in the Infancy of Her Reign, is but a *Sample* of that *Juſtice* which Her People will meet with *in the whole Courſe of Her Government*; which I pray God may long continue for the good of theſe Kingdoms.

Country-m. I ſay Amen to what you ſay, Mr. *Obſervator*; and I hope God Almighty will put it in Her Majeſties Heart to pay the poor Penſioners of King *William*, ſome of which were Inſtrumental in preſerving His Life, ſo Precious to theſe Kingdoms.

Obſ. Their Caſe is indeed hard. But to proceed: When *H*—— brought the Receipts of the Tradeſmen to my Lord Treaſurer, he preſſed my Lord hard for the Penſions, but was told by his Lordſhip, *That, that was a blind Debt; that A—— could beſt tell the Sum due, and might pay it to the Perſons to whom due.* The Penſioners underſtanding that their Names had not been given in, and that it was thought *H*—— had put in for more than was due; went to him, and deſired him to put in their Names, otherwiſe they would make Application themſelves, and that thoſe who would not have their Names known, ſhould be Excluded. Whereupon *H*--, to prevent their Petitioning the Treaſury, gave a Liſt of their Names, and by Shuffling in ſome Foreign Names, made the Sum amount to 1600*l.* But was again refuſed by my Lord Treaſurer; telling him *the Queen would hear no more of it, that he knew nothing of thoſe Perſons, nor their Merits; that A——, who knew beſt, might well afford to Pay* 1600l, *in* 16000; *that he had Receiv'd the Money without any Right, and if the Perſons did Deſerve their Penſions, my Lord A—— could do no leſs than Pay it for his* Maſters Sake.

Country-m. Poor *Penſioners!* He got the Money for his *Own Sake*, and I dare engage he will never pay it for his *Maſters*. Is there no way, Mr. *Obſervator*, for theſe Men to come by their Money?

Obſ. I ſhall not preſume to Direct Her Majeſty, of whoſe *Charity*, *Goodneſs*, and *Juſtice* Her Subjects have no reaſon to have the leaſt Suſpition. Her Lord Treaſurer is a Gentleman of that *known Integrity*, *Probity* and *Honeſty*, as well as *Perſpicuity* and *Judgment* in *Publick Affairs*, that no *Dark Cheat* can eſcape His *Diſcerning Eye*, and *no Injuſtice can prevail, when it is in* His *Power to prevent it*; and therefore the Perſons Aggrieved need not doubt of Relief, when it ſhall become Practicable. *H——n——g*'s Paying the Money to *A*—— was without Warrant; a *Verbal Order* never yet paſs'd for a *Voucher*, without which no Account can be *Legally Paſſed*: So that the *Old Purſe* is ſtill Accountable. The *Penſioners* muſt have Relief in Equity, nay at Common Law, if they know in what Court to Proceed, and againſt what Perſon. *H*—— has Owned that he has *Paid* the Money to *A*——, who ſays, there is nothing Due to the *Penſioners*, becauſe the King died before Quarter Day. If this Argument ſtands good, then *A*—— could not Receive the Money, becauſe the King dy'd before He had Sign'd the Order of the Payment thereof: So that I think the *Late Purſe* is ſtill Accountable.

If the *Penſions* Dy'd with the King, then did *A*——'s Commiſſion for his Troop Die at the ſame time, becauſe that Commiſſion is of the ſame Nature, and equivalent to a *Penſion*. To obviate this, *A*—— Pleads, That he Bought his Commiſſion; Grant he did, he Bought it the Kings Money; and ſeveral Perſons Bought Places with their Own Money, Late Reign, are left out of the *Preſent* liſhment. As for Inſtance, Several of the ſengers, who had done His Late Majeſt trueſt Service: Now the ſame Conſider of *Juſtice* ought to be had to *Inferiour* as *periour Officers*, otherwiſe, if we trace the ſteps of *Juſtice* at Court, *ab Inferiori ad Super* we muſt conclude it *Partial*, or at leaſt *blind*, when it overlooks the Smaller Ob

If *A*—— continues to Receive the Pro his Troop, the *Penſioners* may proceed by of Attachment upon the ſaid Profits, bu not without Her Majeſties leave; for no M is to be ſtop'd in the Queens Hands by the ject, by Attachment, or otherwiſe. If *A* Bought his Troop, I think it ought to be Sold to ſome-body elſe for Money to pay *Penſioners*. Theſe are my Thoughts, a think conſiſtent with *Juſtice*; for I cannot that the *New Purſe* is any wiſe Obliged, e in *Reaſon* or *Equity*, to pay theſe People. *Penſioners* were not on Her Majeſties Liſt, the Queen has none of the Money; ſo t think it is Natural to have recourſe to ſuch have it in poſſeſſion.

Country-m. Now I find the Reaſon why Beſt of Kings was ſo *Reviled* and *Abus'd* the *Enemies of our Country*; 'twas all occaſio by the *Cheats* and *Voracity* of His Courtiers.

Obſ. 'Tis very true, ſome Rail'd out of *lice*, others out of *Ignorance*, not knowing true Reaſon of the *Miſmanagements* of Reign; others loaded His Majeſty with *Crimes* of His *Officers*, and repreſented *Grie ces* as having their Source and Original fr the Crown; and yet when theſe *Evil Mini* and *Courtiers* were Queſtion'd by the *Be Parliaments*, they had gained a *Party*, in *C* and *Country*, who made a Noiſe in their vour, and Repreſented the *Beſt Men in Engl* as Enemies to His Majeſty, as *Jacobites*, and e ry thing that was Obnoxious to the Popula for Proceeding againſt thoſe, whom they ter *The Kings Friends*, tho' they were indeed H and the Nations worſt Enemies. It would well for *England* if her People would Judge things within the Verge of their own Kno ledge, and not divide themſelves into *Parti* by an Unſpeakable Bigotry to Great Men Court, who, like *Bellweathers* of the Flock, le the ſilly Sheep over Rocks, and down Pre pices, to their own Deſtruction 'Tis want *Temper*, and judging of *Publick Affairs* acco ding to the *Intereſt* of *Parties*, has brought o dear Country to *the brink of Ruine*, and *will h flame the Government, in any Reign*, if *Delibera Judgment*, and a *Cool Temper* does not ſurpa the Heat and Violence of *Corrupt Minds*.

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